

CAC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

Members in attendance: Betsy Beamer, Judy Boland, David Botkins, Gloria Marrero Chambers, Winona Coles, Patty Cloeman, Siobhan Deeds, Ann Goettman, Kirsti Goodwin, Ueucharía Jackson, Julia Marsden, Stan Rayfield, Parke Richeson, Sarah Scarbrough, Gayle Jessup White, Georgia Esposito

Opening welcome: Chair Betsy Beamer welcomed CAC members to our meeting. She announced that we will call our meeting to order after we enjoy the beautiful lunch prepared by the Mansion's chef.

Prayer: Secretary Gloria Chambers led us in prayer.

First Lady Suzanne Youngkin Remarks: The First Lady of Virginia, Suzanne Youngkin, spoke to our board during lunch. She welcomed everyone to the Mansion and is looking forward to seeing everyone tonight at the Art Experience Cocktail Party.

Meeting called to order: Chair Betsy Beamer called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Sarah Scarbrough, seconded by Gayle Jessup White. The minutes were approved by CAC members present.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Parke Richeson provided a report. There are no expenditures to date.

Account Balances as of 12/14/2022

Budget for the year:	\$49,000.00
Investment Fund:	
Short Term:	\$12,192.32
Extended Maturity Investment:	\$794,158.37
General Account:	\$51,080.51
Restricted Funds. (Held in General Account)	\$20,410.00
Available for General Purposes:	\$30,670.51

Executive Mansion Report: Executive Mansion Director, Georgia Esposito, provided an update on the projects at the Mansion.

The Mansion was decorated by the house florist “Designs by Ron”. The theme for the Christmas decorations this year is “The Harvest”. Planning started in September. The Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association donated the main Christmas tree. The DGS was fundamental in providing the manpower to get everything needed to arrange all the Christmas decorations in the Mansion. The DGS also absorbed the price of replacing the carpet on the steps on either side of the entry way. The DGS helps in enormous ways everyday making sure that the Mansion looks great.

The Mansion pastry chef made an amazing Ginger Farmhouse for everyone’s enjoyment.

The Mansion Christmas season started December 1st with the Capitol Tree lighting and Open House. The Mansion had over 300 people for a “walk-through tour” that night. Cathy Pemberton and her docents were in attendance.

The Mansion staff has been busy hosting coffees, teas, and receptions. This past Sunday the Mansion took part in the downtown Richmond Winter Wonder. The Mansion was open 12-4pm together with other Museums in the area. Admission to all the Museums participating was free that day.

Every single event at the Mansion has hosted and highlighted different musicians, bands, and music ensembles from Virginia.

The Mansion is hosting the Art Experience Christmas party tonight.

The new website is executivemansion.gov Rosa is working and updating the website, which will feature the Art Experience.

Legislative Session starts January 12th, and it’s a very busy time of the year for hosting numerous events at the Mansion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education: Co-Chair Winona Coles presented the report. Lornette conducted the research on the Jackson Valentine families. The text for the plaque at the Jackson Valentine Memorial garden is now completed. The descriptive plaque will be placed at the garden. The text is 104 words. The education committee would like to add the text to the website.

Descendants: Chair Gayle Jessup White provided the report. Gayle met with Georgia and Betsy to discuss having tours at the Mansion to include the stories of the enslaved people who worked at the home. The stories will be included in the tours, website, and virtual tours of the Mansion. The committee needs to do more research on the stories of these families in order to tell the complete story of the Executive Mansion. A suggestion was made to contact Mary Theobald. Mary researched and wrote a book on the history of the Mansion.

Building and Restoration: Co-Chair David Botkins presented the report. David asked that we all take a look at the architectural rendering of the Jackson Valentine Garden. The improvement includes safety and accessibility. The plans are at the Art and Architectural Review Boards for approval for the structural changes. A suggestion was made to look into silhouettes of the families that worked at the Mansion be added to the garden to represent their stories.

Furnishing and Collections:

Silver Collection: Co-Chair Julia Marsden presented the report. The Capital Connections Magazine feature article highlighting the Historic Silver Collection from the Mansion is coming out in January.

Furnishings: Co-Chair Kirsti Goodwin introduce Patti Loughridge. Patti is the is the Principle of the Circe Estate Sales. She is an appraiser, an antique dealer, a former museum curator for

both the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, VA and the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA. She has long been involved in historic preservation in Virginia and is currently serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Preservation Virginia. She is currently refurbishing different pieces in the Mansion.

Patti Loughridge gave an update on how they are refurbishing some of the furniture pieces in the Mansion. The First Lady Suzanne Youngkin wants the mansion to be more welcoming and to reflect the state of Virginia through the art and the furnishings. She wants every Virginian to feel like this is their house.

The refurbishing took a couple of steps. First, Patti went to the storage space to analyze the furniture and see what can be used in the Mansion. They have found some pieces that are being refinished and will be at the home soon.

Secondly, Patti looked at the fabrics and draperies in the house, and most of them have taken a “beating”. The First Lady’s intent is to reuse and refurbish, and Patti has been doing this throughout the house.

The biggest project for refurbishing in the Mansion is the restoration of the settees. This project is being performed by Tom Snyder, a furniture conservator for Colonial Williamsburg. This is where our funds are being used for the furnishing committee.

The Governor had one single request for furniture in the Mansion. He wants two comfortable chairs in the Governor’s Parlor to sit by the fireplace and conduct business. Patti found two period appropriate wing chairs reproductions from the 1820’s and are currently being reupholstered. The cost for both of the chairs was \$600.

Other projects that are not financially supported by the funding from the CAC are the refinishing of the floors in the parlors and the rugs were removed. The current rugs are on loan.

The next project will be the Queens bedroom upstairs.

Art Experience: Co-Chairs Ann Goettman and Judy Boland presented the report.

They are very excited for the Art Experience party tonight. The party will be attended by many of the art partners and artists. Currently, they are working on the “I spy scavenger hunt” for the Art Experience. This activity will be fun for kids who tour the Mansion.

They also thanked the amazing Mansion staff for being so helpful and accommodating.

OTHER REPORTS:

Department of General Services: Dena Potter, DGS liaison to building and restoration, presented the report.

The DGS is estimating that all construction projects at Capitol Square will be completed by Christmas 2023. The Assembly will be done soon, and move-in will take place after the legislative session is over. The tunnel will be dug and filled by April or May, so all the big fencing around the Capitol will not be there. The landscape and sidewalks will also be replaced once the tunnel construction is finished. The projects are finally coming to the end.

Docents: Cathy Pemberton, head docent, presented the report.

The docents are very excited to be conducting tours and are looking forward to telling more stories. They have been very busy every Friday. The Mansion has also been open on some other dates.

Betsy Beamer gave some closing remarks. Each CAC member received the Executive Mansion Christmas ornament as a gift.

The meeting was adjourned by Betsy Beamer at 2:03pm

Respectfully submitted

Accepted/corrected